

# Clinton's message resonates with voters

By Lisa Gentile  
Staff Opinion Writer

Hooray for Hillary Clinton! America could use more women like her in pivotal places. Not only is she attractive, pleasant and personable, but she is also an articulate, highly intelligent woman. She demonstrates strength and courage in the face of unwarranted bashing as she elegantly takes it in stride.

Addressing a crowd of nearly 1,000 supporters on UNLV's campus, Clinton spoke eloquently of her husband's candidacy, focusing on important campaign issues.

Notably, she urged students and other spectators to get out to the polls and to make an effort to influence others to do the same.

She emphasized that those who do not vote have no right to criticize the government. In principle, she's right. In a representative democracy, the people get what they deserve and deserve what they get.

The first lady's exhortations to fulfill one's civic voting duty was cleverly placed in a well-delivered speech which touched upon the three overarching themes of the Democratic platform: opportunity, responsibility and community.

At long last, American political discourse is shifting away from the destructive, self-serving, materialistic individualism of the Reagan era that contributed more to the moral decline of America than did any politicians desire to experience an altered state of mind.

Is it possible that the American body politic is on the path to maturity, although still in its adolescent stages? Finally the message is breaking through that individual rights and freedoms are meaningless in a society bereft of a sense of corollary communal responsibilities, unity and belonging.

## LISA'S liberal LIBATIONS DRINK UP!

Fortunately, with the Clintons' leadership, the Democratic Party is drawing attention to the concerns of the "village." High quality, universal education is primordial to opportunity in the modern, global village.

The first lady made the link between education policy and the first tenet of the Democratic platform, insisting on the necessity that eight-year-old children be able to read on their own, the need to guard against a schism between the information haves and the information have nots, and the need to use fiscal policy to encourage families to further their children's education.

Clinton stressed the need to protect the Department of Education from the Republicans who would like to abolish it. These are the same fellows who themselves benefited from government-backed student loans but now would like to dismantle those programs.

Don't let them dazzle you with the semantics of it all. U.S. Rep. John Ensign, R-Nev, claims that he does not advocate policies to the detriment of federal assistance programs. In fact, his policies are out of step with the increase in demand. This translates not into absolute cuts in federal spending, but in relative cuts in the amount of loan moneys available to each student.

State Sen. Bob Coffin, Demo-

cratic candidate for the U.S. Congress seeking to unseat rival Ensign, vows to safeguard vital educational programs in conjunction with the Clinton administration.

Of-doubted for their "we feel your pain," attitude, the Clintons, in essence, convey a capacity for compassion which certainly beats the mean-spirited, angry message of Republican Presidential Candidate Bob Dole. Those whose material well-being is more than satisfied call it whining; others call it compassion. It appears that America is receptive to a leadership that genuinely empathizes with and understands the people.

After 12 years of a Hollywood actor and an oil tycoon in the White House, some might find it difficult to trust in the sincerity of the president and the first lady. It is curious that those who have doubts about Bill Clinton are the ones who trusted in the aforementioned predecessors. However, at least 55 percent of the electorate trust our president or they would not intend to vote for him.

Nonetheless, even if the apparent compassion were mere political posturing, it would still be good for America. The tides have turned so that it has once again become socially desirable to be caring and concerned for your fellow human being. It is reassuring to know that America will reject the mean-natured aggression of the Republican presidential campaign.

This villager is a self-avowed liberal, but also is a pragmatist. Although the Green Party candidacy of Ralph Nader is tempting, I have to endorse Bill Clinton for re-election. His concern seems not to be contrived in my view.

The first lady confirmed to me that, although having moved somewhat to the center, the Democratic

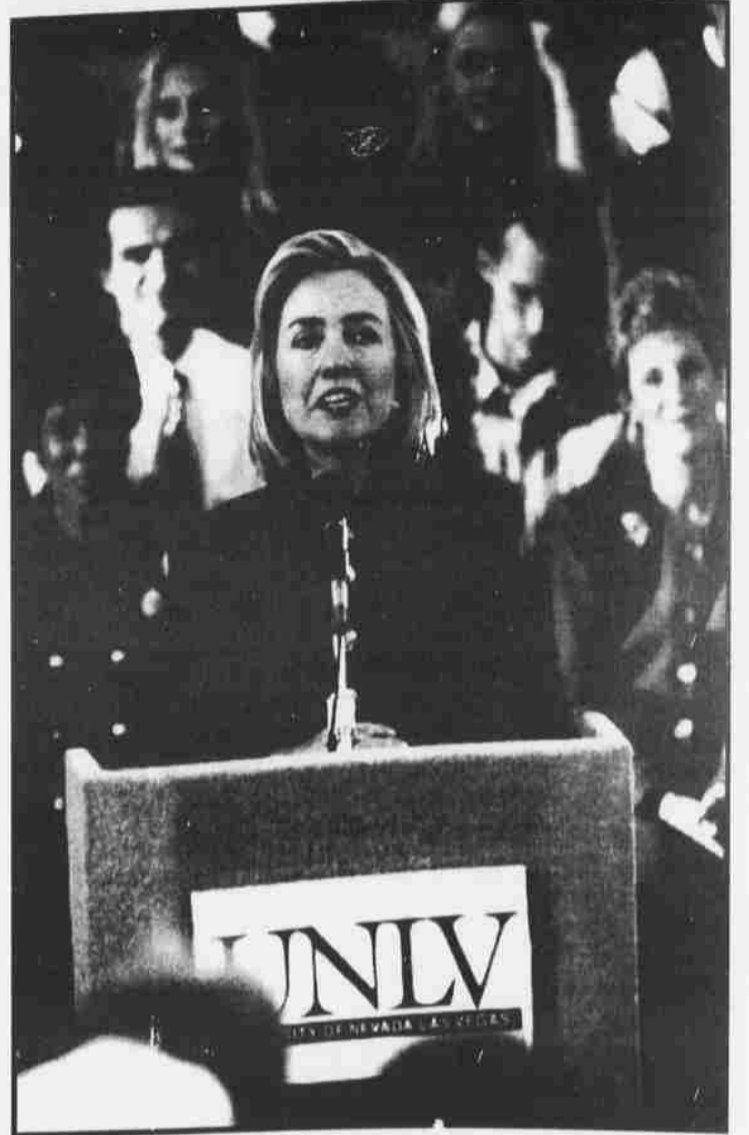


Photo: Gregg Benson/Rebel Yell

Hillary Clinton makes a campaign stop at UNLV last week.

Party can still be a progressive force in American politics. While their economics diverge little, the two main-party candidates differ on social policies which will have immediate impact in the lives of individuals in the areas of education, environment, immigration, gun control, affirmative action and abortion.

In a two-party America yet to be aroused out of its despondency, the practical choice is for the can-

didate whose social policies work slowly but surely in the direction of progress, greater social justice and community, instead of regressing to social and class division and extreme individualism coupled with religious moralism. Fortunately, there are also the Ralph Naders of the world to remind liberals, voters and candidates alike not to deviate too far in the name of pragmatism.

# Regent-to-be Dondero comes to UNLV

## Dondero's visit to class less confrontational than Harter's

By S.T. Sutherland  
Staff Opinion Writer

Regent-to-be Thalia Dondero demonstrated an acute interest in the students of UNLV and in their concerns during her Oct. 17 visit to Mary Hausch's COS 486 class.

Dondero has served education and the Las Vegas community in various capacities for much of her life, notably, as the first female to serve on the Clark County Commission.

Now she wants to be a regent. Unopposed in the race for District E, she will soon fill the seat of Regent Joseph Foley.

Like UNLV President Carol Harter, Thalia Dondero was asked to address communication students to give them the double opportunity of interviewing experience in a news conference setting and asking a decision maker what they really think of the way things are and how to change them.

Surprisingly, Dondero began by telling the assembled students, "I want to hear from you. I want to know what you feel are the needs of the university. I'm dedicated to helping you get the most out of your education."

Quality of education heads the



Dondero

list of issues of importance to Dondero. "I'm concerned that graduates looking for work are adequately trained in their fields," she said. Of the role of education in America, Dondero added, "Education is our strength. That's our power."

Dondero's passion for learning is her strength and her motivation. Though not completely up to speed on some of the issues raised by the class, Dondero expressed her eagerness to delve into the research involved in fulfilling her upcoming post.

Dondero expressed support for placement of the proposed law school on UNLV's campus, though graduate programs and internships conducted in conjunction with the legal community may mandate it be largely located in the downtown area.

Finding alternate ways to fund higher education in Nevada aside from tuition hikes concerns Dondero, as well. She plans to take

this philosophy with her into her position as a regent and on to Carson City before the legislature. "The budget is always a fight," she said.

Among the more interesting insights provided during the news conference related to Harter. Harter and Dondero are reputedly closely allied in their philosophies about education, and according to Dondero, have become friends.

"In running a university you must know what you're working

with, know the student body, know the professors, zero in on what you want to work on," Dondero said. "I don't think (Harter) has had enough time yet to make those evaluations."

After the long history of commitment to education and accomplishment in Dondero's life, she still wants to give of herself. Seemingly tireless, her genuine interest in students as individuals with specific challenges impressed the class. "I was impressed that

(Dondero) took the time to hear the concerns of students. I only hope that she will follow up and address the needs of students once she becomes a regent," said senior Trevor Hayes, opinion editor at *The Rebel Yell*.

Faith that she will run high among those who heard Dondero speak. The overall feeling in the class was positive after Dondero left the news conference.

Dondero will assume the position of regent on Nov. 5, following the general elections.

